

**Council on Postsecondary Education**  
**May 20, 2002**

## Executive Summary

### Cross-Cutting Issues

Both the regular session of the General Assembly and the special session called by the Governor ended with the two chambers unable to agree on a budget for 2002-04. Several pieces of legislation also fell prey to disagreement between the two chambers. On balance, it was a session about which the best thing to be said is that nothing really bad happened except for some unfortunate budget decisions. We'll have a summary of the bills we tracked at the council meeting.

At this time, Kentucky does not have a budget for 2002-04. Having failed to agree on a budget bill during the regular session, the General Assembly met from April 22 to May 1 in a special session but again was unable to agree. The leaders of both chambers of the General Assembly appear to have agreed that the Governor should not call another special session until after the May 28 primary election. We shall not have a budget report by May 20 although, if council members wish, we can summarize those areas on which agreement appears to have been reached.

The 2002-04 budget bill probably will include an agency bond pool for the colleges and universities, although it will be much smaller than that originally proposed by the Governor in January. As in the past, the bill probably will say that the council is to recommend individual projects to be funded with the agency bond pool. The staff has prepared a suggested list of

priorities for discussion at the May meeting. Action is not required until July. Versions of the budget bill that have been considered during the past several months have included language that directs the council to develop guidelines for institutions that want to use any unmatched funds from the 2000-02 capital renewal and maintenance pool. The staff provides draft guidelines for council discussion (see page 15). Again, action is not required until July.

In 2000, a state-by-state report card on higher education was released. Another version will be released this fall. The report, entitled *Measuring Up 2000*, gave all 50 states an “incomplete” in student learning. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education determined that there were no comparable data across all states to assign grades.

Since the release of the first report card, the National Center has been working to identify data that would permit it to grade student learning. Kentucky has been extensively involved in these efforts and recently was asked to be a model for the 2002 report card. We are a bit ahead of most states in collecting data that can be used to measure student learning and the report card will include an essay proposing a common method to be used by all states. The project is described in more detail beginning on page 23 of this agenda book.